

Addendum 2**PROGRAM REPORTS****NON-POINT SOURCE PROGRAM**Historical Perspective

In 1975, the Basin Plan recognized and described both point and non-point source problems. With adoption of the Clean Water Act, major state and federal grant programs were initiated to focus attention on controlling point source discharges. Therefore, it is no surprise that for the next 20 years the Regional Board concentrated on point sources. These concentrated efforts have for the most part been extremely effective in reducing point source impairments. Over the same period, the Regional Board tried, with limited resources, to address some of the most serious non-point source problems. These were problems associated with agricultural operations (including confined animal facilities), mining and timber harvest activities and local water quality problems associated with erosion from development and pollution from septic tanks.

Current Status

The overall statewide non-point source program is described in State Board's Non-point Source Pollution Control Program (adopted in 1988) and a Non-point Source Program Plan that was released in 2000. The Program Plan was developed, primarily, to bring our non-point source program into compliance with federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendment requirements. The Program Plan covers 15 years of implementation from 1998-2013 and workplans for the second five years (FY 2003-08) have been completed.

Currently, non-point source pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairments in California. The Regional Board has several programs that are implemented in a coordinated fashion to address non-point source problems. Following is a brief description of the more significant programs and how activities in the programs are coordinated to achieve the statewide goals of the non-point source program.

- US EPA Funded NPS Program – For the past few years, Region 5 has received about 5 PYs annually to work on non-point source problems. Work is described in an annual workplan. About half is spent on program administration and managing grants that are awarded primarily to stakeholder groups for non-point source planning or implementation projects. The other half is spent working with stakeholder groups on issues that are of mutual interest and on high priority non-point source issues identified in the WMI Chapter or state Non-point Source Plan. For example, last fiscal year, we worked on watershed assessments, coordinating the nutrient TMDL with the mercury TMDL in Clear Lake, developing monitoring and quality assurance plans for marina monitoring in the Delta, and developing nutrient standards for dairy waste discharges to land. This fiscal year, we will work with Lake County to implement the mercury TMDL and finalize the nutrient TMDL for Clear Lake. In addition, we will begin implementation of nutrient management plans at confined animal facilities not covered under the NPDES Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit and implement the monitoring program for marinas in the Delta. Staff will also assist with planning for the 2005 Non-point source conference.
- All the TMDLs under development address non-point source problems. A separate Executive Officer's report will outline this program. Staff helps stakeholder groups understand the relationship between their work and the TMDL implementation.
- Agricultural discharges are considered to be non-point source. Region 5 addresses pollutants associated with discharges from irrigated agriculture with the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands Program. In addition, specific regulatory programs are in place for agricultural operations that generate specifically defined water quality problems, such as discharges associated with rice culture operation, aquatic weed control programs and pesticide applicator facilities.
- The State Board competitive grant program to help improve water quality due to NPS pollution has been funded for the past ten years with US EPA Non-point Source Funds. The State received about \$5 million a year that funded stream restoration, erosion control, citizen monitoring and education and other locally derived projects. In recent years, bonds have provided significantly more funds for locally led efforts.
- Other non-point source concerns, such as timber operation, confined animal operations, and hydromodification (i.e 401 certs) are addressed by separate programs.